

SIX.ONE NEWS

AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH [AFOSR] The Basic Research Manager of the Air Force Research Laboratory

AFOSR's Star Team Award Guidelines

As part of AFOSR's management of the Air Force basic research program, AFOSR has ongoing reviews of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Technical Directorate (TD) basic research tasks to determine which have proven, through their track record, to be of world-class status in their chosen areas of basic research. The purpose of the Star Team Award is to recognize excellence in basic research in AFRL TDs. Specifically, it recognizes a team of researchers who have demonstrated world class scientific or engineering achievement, i.e. the "best of the best". It rewards team achievement, fosters excellence throughout the technical directorate research community, showcases Air Force research, and promotes the critical role of fundamental research within the Air Force's broad technology thrusts.

Star Team Award Selection Process

1. Eligibility: All AFRL TD Tasks within the 6.1 basic research program, consisting of a team of three (3) or more AFRL staff members supported full or part time by 6.1 funds, are eligible.

2. Selection: The AFOSR Scientific Directors, after consultation with their program managers, and the AFOSR Deputy Director, recommend candidates for Star Team Awards to the AFOSR Director. The AFOSR Director, in consultation with the AFOSR Chief Scientist, will make the final selections; recommendations from SAB members and AFRL Chief Scientists who have attended formal Reviews will be considered. The selections will be based on Task performance. Excellence of performance will be evaluated based on information in written material submitted annually, oral presentations where appropriate, results from any relevant technical reviews including SAB reviews, and peer reviewed reports provided to AFOSR by senior researchers in the Task area of research, if requested. Criteria used will be those that indicate research excellence and international stature, and relevance. Most importantly, these criteria include the nature and significance of research results, as well as other indicators as requested (as part of the annual report) such as: number and kind of publications in reviewed journals, invited talks given by team members, books and book chapters, invitations by and visits from renowned researchers, participation by team members in professional activities, invention disclosures, patents, transitions, relevance to and impact on AF needs, citations, honors, and awards received.

3. Duration: A 6.1 task may be nominated for Star Team status at any time. Appointment to Star Team status is normally three (3) years, with only informal presentations and laboratory tours required by AFOSR in the intervening duration. After three years, or after any significant change, the team will re-compete. The Star Team criteria are extremely demanding, and no more than about 10% of all 6.1 Tasks should expect to be selected for this distinction, so no stigma can be attributed to unsuccessful re-competition.

4. Budget: The Star Team is protected from budgetary cuts or withholds in excess of the AFOSR percentage reduction in actual 6.1 dollars received for that Fiscal Year, so long as the Star Team continues to meet its relevance and excellence criteria.

5. Recognition: The Star Team Award includes a plaque bearing the AFOSR logo and the inscription "20XX-20YY* AFRL Star Team Award for Excellence in Basic Research in (topic of the team's research) awarded to (name of directorate)". In addition, AFOSR will issue a congratulatory letter to the scientists and engineers of the Star Team signed by the Director, AFOSR, with copies to the AFRL/CC, the Air Force Chief Scientist, the Commander or Director (as applicable) of the Star Team's TDs, and others as appropriate. *[Note: XX is the calendar year of the selecting review; YY is the year three years hence.]

(original signed by)

LYLE SCHWARTZ
DIRECTOR

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